

# MARYLAND TAMS JOURNAL

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2661 Greenbriar Lane, Annapolis, MD. 21401

410-263-2053

stonedeyhle@verizon.net

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## **NEW MD. TAMS MAILING ADDRESS**

**Maryland Token and Medal Society**

**P.O. Box 805**

**Rockville, MD. 20848-0805**

MD TAMS JOURNAL is published four times a year by the Maryland Token and Medal Society, Inc., P. O. Box 805, , Rockville, MD 20848-0805. Meetings are held at various coin shows and conventions throughout the year. See information on future meetings elsewhere in this issue.

## MEMBERSHIP

REGULAR: Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and of good moral character.

JUNIOR: Applicants must be from 10 to 18 years of age and of good moral character. A parent or guardian MUST sign application.

ORGANIZATIONS: Interested clubs, societies, museums, research groups, etc., may apply for membership.

DUES: Dues for Regular, Junior and Organizational membership are \$10.00 per year. Life Membership \$200.

## MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor. Opinions expressed by the authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the MD TAMS, its Editor or its Officers. MD TAMS JOURNAL reserves the Right to edit or reject any copy.

The Maryland Token and Medal Society to help stimulate and maintain interest in the collecting of medals, tokens and other related Exonumia from the State of Maryland and other areas produce THE MARYLAND TAMS JOURNAL. It is strictly a non-profit organization. The Journal is published quarterly: *Spring; Summer; Fall and Winter.*

## ADVERTISING INFORMATION and RESTRICTIONS:

MD TAMS does not guarantee advertising, but accepts copy in good faith. All advertising should be addressed to the Editor. Advertising copy shall be restricted to tokens, medals and other Exonumia as well as allied numismatic material, publications and accessories related thereto. All advertisers must supply their own cuts and/or artwork.

### RATES:

#### SIZE            1 - ISSUE            4 - ISSUES

1 Page	\$ 16.00	\$ 56.00
½ Page	\$ 12.00	\$ 42.00
¼ Page	\$ 8.00	\$ 28.00
1/8 Page	\$ 4.00	\$ 14.00

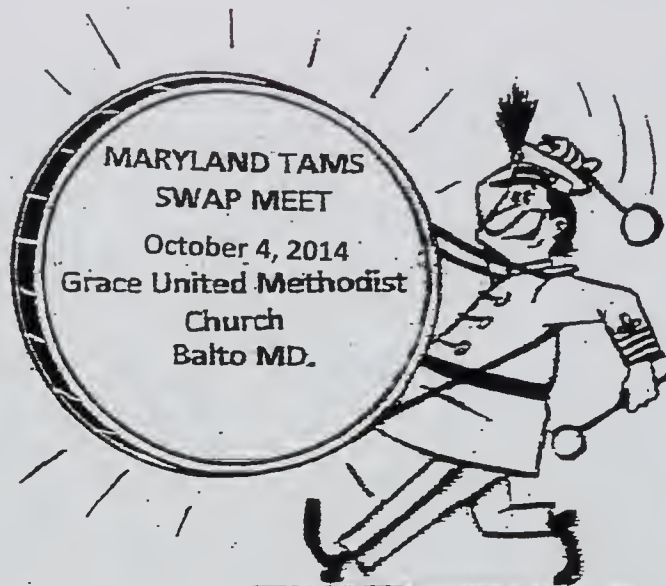
### CLASSIFIED ADS:

Members may place a free 25-word ad. Ads in excess of 25 words, a rate of 10¢ per word will apply.

### DEADLINES:

#### ISSUE            DEADLINE            ISSUE DATE

Spring	February 15 <sup>th</sup>	March 21 <sup>st</sup>
Summer	May 15 <sup>th</sup>	June 21 <sup>st</sup>
Fall	August 15 <sup>th</sup>	September 21 <sup>st</sup>
Winter	November 15 <sup>th</sup>	December 21 <sup>st</sup>



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 01 2014, WHITMAN COIN  
EXPO.

(convention center)....check desk for  
room number

October 4<sup>th</sup>, Swap Meet...Grace United  
Methodist Church, Baltimore, MD.

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We had a real good Annual Meeting at the Whitman Show. At that meeting, the membership voted to raise the dues. This is long overdue. Starting with the next dues year, the dues will be \$15.00 a year. Accordingly, Life Membership will be \$300.00. In the near future, you will see a dues adjustment for those members willing to receive their Journal electronically. This will save us money on both printing and postage four times a year. Thanks to the members for the great discussion at the meeting on this topic. Note: If you are already a Life Member or if you have paid your dues for years ahead, there is no impact for you. The price of the dues will not change until next year so there is still time to purchase a Life Membership.

The summer is almost over and we are fast approaching our second Swap Meet of 2014. We are hoping for a big crowd as these functions are one of the best ways to add to your collection and keep in touch with other members and new activities in our hobby, Please try to attend if at all possible. The Swap Meet is on Saturday 4 October 2014 at the Grace United Methodist Church on Charles Street and Northern Parkway. The hours are Noon to 3 PM.

MEMBERSHIP - we need each member to make a concerted effort to get some new members for the Maryland Token and Medal Society. Through normal attrition, we lose more members each year than we gain. We need to add members so talk it up with your friends.

Have you found a new Maryland token or medal? Do you own an interesting item that you want to share with other collectors? You should write an article for our Journal to both capture and share this information.



## THE BALTIMORE BICENTENNIAL AND IT'S FORGOTTEN MEDALS

BY: Frank & Jan Pugliese

In 1997, Baltimore celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 1797, the state of Maryland permitted Fells Point, Jones Town and Baltimore Town to incorporate into the self-governing city of Baltimore. At the spring Baltimore coin show, the owners permitted a table to be set up offering the promotion of bicentennial items including the sale of commemorative medals. There were four medal varieties- three in one ounce .999 proof silver and one in bronze, this being fashioned as a key tag. The three silver medals were proof, proof with gold highlights, and proof with gold plating. The medals were designed by Steven R. Lundberg and were struck by the Northwest Territorial Mint in Auburn Washington.

We purchased three of the four varieties in their original boxes and packaging, eschewing the gold plated version. The prices were \$25.00 for all the silver one, \$54.00 for the silver with gold highlighting and \$10.00 for the bronze. We failed to record the price of the gold plated variety but we believe it was around \$75.00.

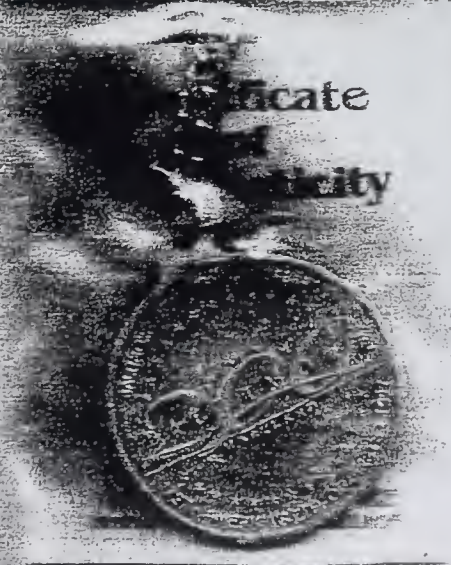
We asked the sales representative about the mintage figures. He checked available records but was unsure about the accuracy of the figures. To his knowledge, there were 215 silver medals minted, 110 of the gold highlighted one, and 230 for the key tag variety. Once agin, we did not keep the information about the gold plated medal.

Although these mintages seem small, we noted that sales at the show were not exactly brisk. Even though we lived in Maryland in 1997 and were in Baltimore during that time, we heard nothing

about the “festivities that will excite and involve Baltimoreans all year long”, according to their brochure. In the ensuing years of searching for Baltimore material, we’ve not seen one of these medals for sale, nor have we seen anything published in the MD.TAMS or TAMS journals. While re-cataloging our collection, we came across these medals and felt it was about time to give some recognition to this bicentennial and its forgotten medals.

Reverse

Obverse



# ***NEW CECIL COUNTY TOKENS***

***BY: Jim Shipley & Ed Craig***

Last year Jim Shipley was in Tennessee and went in to check out a coin shop and was very surprised when he came upon several unlisted tokens from Fair Hill, Maryland . Fair Hill is in Cecil County near Elkton. The business was Wesley's Restaurant. Jim found three different denominations (25c, 50c and \$1.00). The tokens are 28mm, round, brass with the following information:

OBV: WESLEY'S/(301)/398-3696/RTE 273 FAIR HILL  
REV: GOOD FOR/25c/IN TRADE

OBV: WESLEY'S/(301)/398-3696/RTE 273 FAIR HILL  
REV: GOOD FOR/50c/IN TRADE

OBV: WESLEY'S/(301)/398-3696/RTE 273 FAIR HILL  
REV: GOOD FOR/\$1.00/IN TRADE

Jim contacted Wesley's and asked about these tokens and was told that they have not been in use for about 15 years. They currently use plastic tokens. Also of note is that the phone number on the tokens shows the old 301 area code. The current area code is 410. Wesley's is a restaurant and bar with an attached liquor store. It is located at 3700 Telegraph Road.

There is good stuff out there - - keep searching!!!!



## The Johns Hopkins \$100,000 Thank You

Russ Sears

As we search the world for historical prizes, we never know what we will find. This medal which hangs by a loop off a ribbon can be worn around the neck of the owner.



Johns Hopkins Initiative Leadership Donor - 62mm across - 91mm long

Johns Hopkins University is one of the leading universities in the country. Johns Hopkins Hospital, Health System has often been proclaimed the best hospital in the world. Maintaining and expanding the Hopkins legacies requires ongoing fund raising.

One of those fund raisers was the Johns Hopkins Initiative Leadership Donor program in 2000. One thousand persons attended the celebration held at the Homewood Campus on October 14 and recognized raising a total of \$ 1,520,000,000, over one and a half billion dollars. Of the 130,000 donors, there were 1,546 who gave at least \$ 100,000 each for a total of 1.35 billion dollars. Those \$ 100,000+ donors were given the pictured medal as a thank you gift.

# BALTIMORE'S PACKING INDUSTRY

## PART 6 by Janc Scars MD TAMS LM12

This series is about the men who made up Baltimore's Packing Industry. These reviews are about the many companies that engaged in the Packing Industry in Baltimore during the 1880's. Extracts from many old books printed over one hundred years ago (called Vanity books) will appear. Printed word for word as in the books including the artwork. There may be more than one biography for a company. These biographies will give an idea of who these men were, and the details about their company. Just remember when you read these articles; the original publication was talking in present tense, 130 years ago.

(Question: What is a Vanity book? - - - - Answer: Years ago, a person who wanted to appear important in the community would pay to be included in a book about leading citizens).

(Note: Before the address changes in 1886, what is shown here isn't valid because of the new number.)

### Isaac Solomon

Isaac Solomon (1819-1895) had established a canning factory in Baltimore by 1860; in 1861, he was credited with the first application to commercial canning of an earlier discovery of adding calcium chloride to water in order to increase the boiling temperature from 212 degrees Fahrenheit to 240 degrees Fahrenheit or high. This reduced the processing time for canning from four or five hours to only thirty or forty minutes. Isaac Solomon's purchase of "Sandy Island" allowed him to expand his canning operation and locate closer to the oyster grounds. He leased small lots on the island to many persons who paid a yearly rent varying from \$ 9 to \$ 21. A plat of lots by numbers was made by Thomas L. Grover in 1870. In the same year the first bridge, a foot bridge 550 feet long, connected the island with the main land. There was even an association known as the Alpha Building Association of Solomons which may have come into existence as an agency from which persons could borrow money to build homes on the land they had purchased.

As early as 1868, a railroad from Baltimore to Drum Point was contemplated to take advantage of the excellent harbor between Drum Point and Solomons Island, considered by some to be one of the finest harbors on the East Coast. By the 1870's, the railway right of way had been surveyed, but financial difficulties brought a halt to any construction. Revived interest in the 1880's and 1890's resulted in construction of the roadbed, but no tracks had been laid when more financial difficulties brought the project to a halt.

By 1880, the census listed 51 different households and 237 residents. Local tradition holds that the Solomons fishing fleet exceeded 500 vessels, many locally built.

Isaac Solomon's enterprise collapsed in the mid 1870's, in large part due to the failure of the proposed railroad from Baltimore to Drum Point, and he lost the island to Baltimore creditors. In 1879, most of Solomons Island and the cannery were bought by John S. Farren Company and Thomas R. Moore for \$ 6,225. Mr. Farren was owner of the New Haven, Connecticut, J. S. Farren Company which opened an oyster canning house in Baltimore and decided to buy Solomons holding as a branch facility. Capt. Thomas Moore, owner of the largest private fleet in Maryland, was looking for a suitable harbor where he could establish a repair and maintenance facility for his nearly 200 vessels. Moore sold his interest in the island at auction in 1892 for \$ 10,000 to Burdette H. Farren, brother of John, and their two sisters. The Farrens immediately invested more money into the island when in 1893 a new, two story warehouse was built near the steamboat wharf and a 1,323 foot long bulkhead was constructed along the lower, eastern end of the island.

From the book: "Baltimore its History and its People", 1912 Lewis Historical Publishing Co.

### R. D. Uthhoff & Company

R. D. Uthhoff & Co., Manufacturers of Choice Preserves, and Packers of Fresh Vegetables in Glass, Nos. 139, 141, 143 and 145 Boston Street. - - - This is probably the most recent acquisition to this branch of the industrial ranks of Baltimore, having been founded in the spring of 1881, but the rapid development of a large trade, and the extensive facilities enjoyed have impressed the writer with the importance of the house, and we, therefore, give it a place in this



industrial volume, ranking second to none of a similar kind in this city, and in fact in regard to both magnitude and merit, it towers far above many older houses. The building occupied is very large, measuring 80 x 200 feet, containing all the improved and most modern appliances pertaining to the business, and the greatest care is exercised in every department in regard to cleanliness. The productions of the house consist of choice preserves of all kinds, the famous Eureka brand of oysters, and fresh vegetables packed in glass. One hundred hands are employed in the manufacture and preparation of these goods, and they are sold in all sections of the United States, and a large amount are shipped to Germany and also to England, the house having an established agency in London. R. D. Uhthoff & Co., are undoubtedly leaders in their line, and we consider that a notice of their house adds to the interest and lends importance to this book.

From the book: "Industries of Maryland - A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore" by Richard Edwards 1881-82, Historical Publishing Company, Publishers, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, 1882. (Page 246)

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#### **S. J. Vanlill & Company**

S. J. Vanlill & Co., Importers and Manufacturers of Choice Preserves, Fruit Butters, Superior Jellies, Fancy James, Mince Meat, etc., Office and Factory, No. 411 Exchange Place. - - - This business was established ten years ago by Mr. S. J. Vanlill, who is sole proprietor, trading under the firm name of S. J. Vanlill & Co. The premises occupied are very extensive, and comprise a superior four story building 25 x 100 feet in dimensions. Mr. Vanlill is a recognized authority as a manufacturer of choice preserves, fruit butters, superior jellies, fancy jams, mince meat, etc. His establishment is fitted up with all the latest improved machinery and appliances, while he exercises the most careful supervision over all the processes of manufacture, using none but the choicest and purest of sugars and the best selected and freshest fruits. His goods are put up in the most tempting manner, and form the most delicious and appetizing table luxuries. His jellies, jams, fruit butters, and preserves are staples with the trade, and he annually sells increasing quantities to all the leading wholesale grocers and jobbers of the city, and all over the East, West, and South. The mince meat of this responsible house is considered by experts to be the standard article in the market and the best ever introduced. Thirty experienced operatives are employed in the factory, and two boilers, each of one hundred horse power, are utilized in the various operations. Mr. Vanlill's skill, and care to handle only the best sugars, syrups, and fruits, have, coupled with his energy and enterprise, placed him in a leading position in this branch of trade. Representative in his line of business, he offers substantial inducements to the grocery trade of the United States.

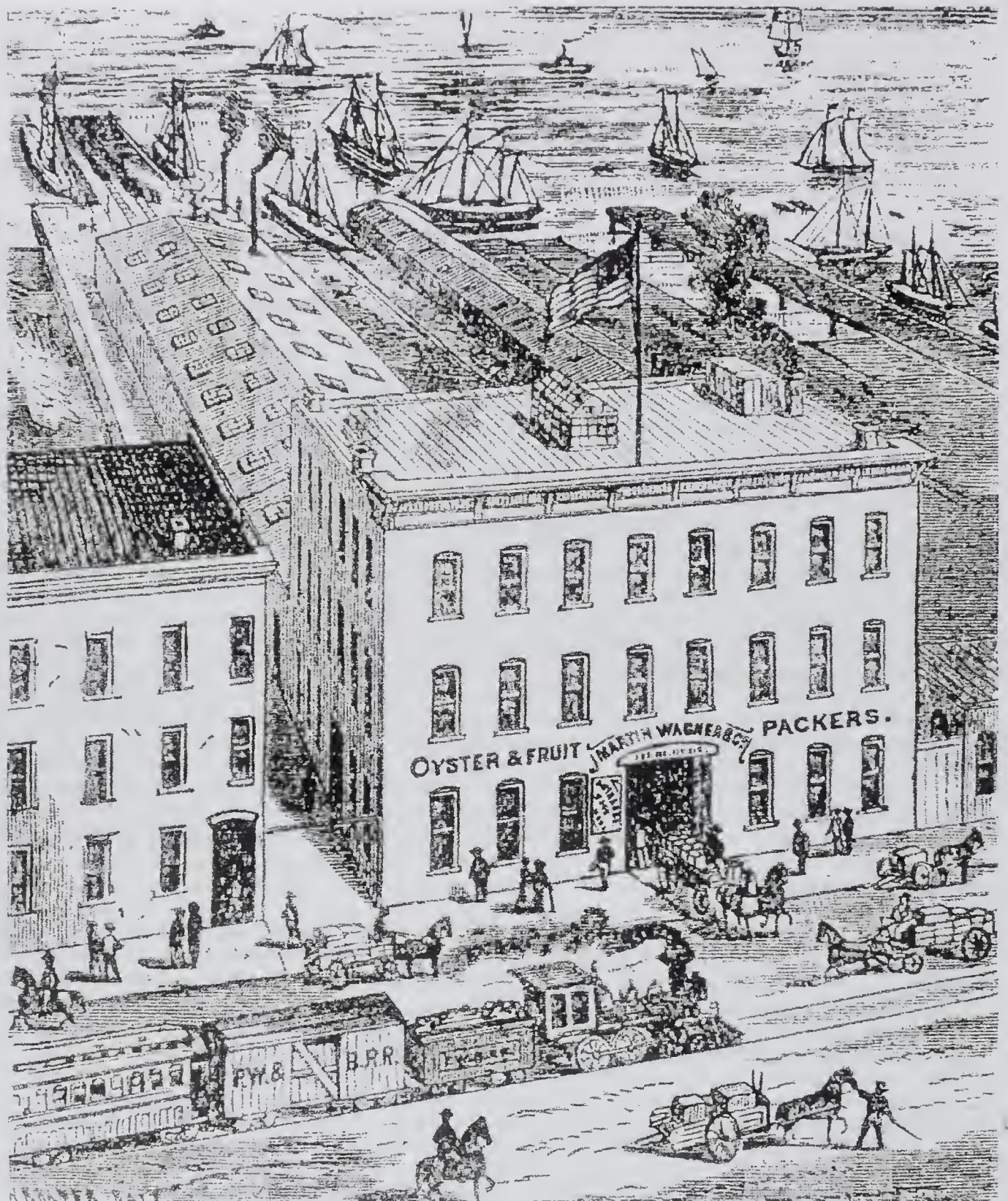
From the book: "Half-Century's Progress of the City of Baltimore" The City leading Manufacturers and Merchants by International Publishing Company, 102 Chambers Street, New York, 1887 (Page 194)

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#### **Martin Wagner & Company**

Martin Wagner & Co., Oyster and Fruit Packers, Nos. 109, 111, 113, and 115 Boston Street. - - - When we consider that four millions of bushels of oysters are packed annually in Baltimore, that over seven hundred schooners, besides small boats, are employed in the trade, and that through it about twenty five thousand people obtain a livelihood, some idea of the importance of the traffic may be gained. There is no establishment of greater prominence in the oyster and fruit trade in the city than that of Martin Wagner & Co. The experience of Mr. Wagner has been from the commencement of the packing business. He commenced at the lowest round of the ladder, and has worked himself through every department to that of proprietor, which contributes to his success and has led to the erection of the spacious and substantial warehouse they now occupy, located on Graham's wharf, and covering an area of 60 x 500 feet. This location affords every facility for the reception of oysters from vessels and for transportation by railroad. The warehouse and packing establishment is supplied with every necessary improvements for oyster and fruit packing, among them is a Shriver's Patent Process Kettle. The success of this firm has never been exceeded, packing in a season as many as eight hundred cases in a day in the way of fruits. In the same energetic manner they are now engaged in oyster packing, and have every convenience and facility for making it a success. Their goods are put up with the greatest care; Mr. Wagner attends personally to the work of packing, and it is therefore done to perfection. Their fruits are from the best growing sections of the State, while their oysters are from the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The goods of this house have establishments in Baltimore.





From the book: "Industries of Maryland - A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore" by Richard Edwards 1881-82, Historical Publishing Company, Publishers, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, 1882. (Page 272)



## Martin Wagner

Martin Wagner, the subject of this sketch, is one of the pioneers in Baltimore's great oyster and fruit packing industry. He is the founder and president of the Martin Wagner Company, the leading house of its kind on this continent, and has been identified with the packing industry since its infancy. He was born in Baltimore, July 24, 1849, and began life as an apprentice in the tinsmith business when all that work was done by hand. Then as now the making of tins cans was an important feature of local commerce over which Mr. Wagner acquired a perfect mastery and in the development of which he was largely instrumental. Naturally the making of tin cans was very closely allied to the packing business, and Mr. Wagner's quick discernment enabled him to appreciate the splendid opportunities which it offered. He then acquired a complete knowledge of the art of processing - an art at that time shrouded in mystery and accessible only to a very limited few. With this valuable knowledge, together with aggressive methods he began the packing of canned goods, improving upon old methods and bringing about innovations such as the business had not known before. It was then that the now widely known "Martin Wagner" brands were launched out to win popular favor over a formidable array of competition. That they are today everywhere known and that a large demand for them proceeds from every quarter of the United States and Canada, extending largely to Europe, may be attributed to the fact that with the packing of the first as well as the last can this fixed rule was laid down; that nothing but superior excellence should appear under the Wagner brand; and it is because this principle has never been changed that a uniform merit has always prevailed and a vast and increasing trade developed. In 1872 Mr. Wagner began business in a small way as a manufacturer of tin cans on Luzerne Street, and was successful from the beginning, so much so that within a short period his establishment had grown to be one of the largest plants for the manufacture of tin cans in Baltimore. The methods of the business have been revolutionized and the output of the large tin can making department of the Martin Wagner Company many times multiplies what was considered an exceedingly large output in the other days. In 1880, however, with characteristic energy, a prominent trait, Mr. Wagner set aside the making of cans as an exclusive business and make it an auxiliary to his new venture in the packing of oysters and fruits. Thus from a small beginning the establishment has reached its present great proportions. In 1889 the Martin Wagner Company was incorporated with a capital of \$200,000. The officers of the company are Mr. Martin Wagner, president and general manager; Mr. M. J. Wagner, vice president; Mr. W. A. Wagner, treasurer; Mr. George J. Wagner and Mr. John G. Schorr, superintendents respectively of the can manufacturing and packing department.

At the time they occupied commodious quarts at 2315-2317 Boston Street, comprising a four story building, 120 x 300 feet in dimensions, with wide area of sheds and wharves that afforded facility in the discharging of vessels. Mr. Wagner long ago foresaw the conditions which today attach to the great enterprise of which he is the head and shrewdly bought an extensive but unimproved tract of land at Curtis Bay, Anne Arundel County, to which place had been moved the entire plant which had for years made the old location a center of unceasing activity. Today the unimproved land of other days is now Wagner's Point and immediately continuous is the uninteresting town of East Brooklyn, both place owned and controlled by the Martin Wagner Company. At the former place is located the packing establishment of the company with largely increased capacity and embracing every device known to this business. Immediately adjoining is the can making department, the output of which has recently been increased from 20,000,000 cans per year to 30,000,000 and 40,000,000 cans. Nearby and a striking figure in this great group of buildings is the box manufacturing establishment; thus it is seen that in one center is combined all the various departments of the packing industry. Large warehouses line the water front, affording easy access to shipping on the one side and to rail transportation on the other. Splendidly built docks and bulk heads extending into deep water admit of the presence of a large number of draught vessels at one time. An electric plant supplies illumination to the establishment, adding another to the conveniences that facilitate the handling of a really enormous business. In carrying the plant from Baltimore to Wagner's Point - about four miles distant from Baltimore - they likewise carried the operatives who form a happy and prosperous community, to the now busy little town of East Brooklyn, with its hundred two and three story finely built brick dwellings, a post office whither comes and goes the mail three times a day, a largely attended country public school, drug store, bakery, shoe store and restaurant, it has every claim to the dignity of a town many times older and larger. The town enjoys the presence of a well conducted grocery and provision store at which goods are sold at city prices. A fire engine company with splendid quarters is a feature of East Brooklyn and a fine chemical engine truck and accessories to their organization. Whilst serving a very distinctively practical purpose the social feature is not inconsiderable and the engine house is a place of great local importance. To the north of East Brooklyn is Masonville, a town of growing importance and named for the great cracker baker of Baltimore; nearby in Fairfield indicating its activity by a number of factories and numerous pretty dwellings; to the west is the old town of Brooklyn and lying at the extreme southerly end is South Baltimore, with its churches and schools, mills and car shops and one of the finest sugar refineries in the country. These growing towns have a combined



population of about 10,000 people, and dot the landscape of one of the most successful vegetable sections in the United States - far famed Anne Arundel County. Baltimore lies heavily banked against the north and is easily reached by the electric cars which penetrate these towns.

Hand in hand Wagner's Point and East Brooklyn grow together, for there is never any cessation in the march of improvements. New buildings are constantly going up and a strong building association makes it possible for every family to own its own dwelling, a convenience largely availed of. Altogether the buildings of the Martin Wagner Company used exclusively in their packing business cover....acres.

The subject of our narrative has not yet reached the half century mark and yet there has been crowded into his life the activities and results of a much longer period. Looking back over the past twenty five years there is reason for much elation and gratification. The now towering proportions of the company dwarf into insignificance the place of beginning - a meager and unpretentious place that lives again the embodiment of a town and a town's people. Mr. Wagner is as actively present in the concerns of the establishment as ever he was. He laid the foundation of the business and molded its policy from which there has been not deviation. Every department is under his watchful eye - even the veriest details of the business do not escape him. The past of the Martin Wagner Company's plant has been prolific of great results and indications point to a long continuance of prosperity.

From the book: "History of Baltimore from its founding as a town to the current year 1729-1898", volume 2, S. B. Nelson Publishers, 1898 (History of Baltimore, Maryland with Illustrations, S. B. Nelson, Publishers) (Pages 783, 784 and 785)

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### **The Warfield Manufacturing Company**

The Warfield Manufacturing Company, Sole Manufacturers of the Warfield System for Preparing Green Corn for Canning and Patented Canning House Machinery, Nos. 336, 338, 340, and 342 North Street. - - - Special attention is directed to the representative and progressive Warfield Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of Warfield's green corn cutter, canning house machinery, and special machinery of various kinds, whose office and works are located at Nos. 336, 338, 340, and 342 North Street. This company was duly incorporated under the laws of Maryland with a paid up capital of \$50,000 in 1883, and since its organization at the period has obtained a liberal and influential patronage from packers of fruits, vegetables, and oysters in all parts of the country. The following gentlemen are the officers and directors, viz: S. Davies Warfield, president and manager; Calvin S. Shriver, vice president; C. Taylor Jenkins, secretary and treasurer, Directors - John L. Weeks, George Cator, R. Emory Warfield, Robert K. Martin. The premises occupied comprise a spacious three story building, with basement 50 x 100 feet in dimensions, fully equipped with all the latest improved machinery, tools, and appliances necessary for the successful and systematic conduct of the business. The company manufactures largely patent canning house machinery, under the Warfield system for preparing green corn for canning, also special machines for dealing with fruits, vegetables, and oysters, likewise shafting, hangers, pulleys, couplings, and general machine work. A large force of experienced workmen are employed by the company. The canning machines are made from patterns and designs of Mr. S. Davies Warfield's invention. These specialties have met with great favor from packers as being the best, strongest, and most easily operated machinery of the kind in the market, and have proved invaluable to the canning trade. All the canning house machines are constructed with unusual care and accuracy and of the most durable materials, and are general favorites with the trade wherever introduced. Large numbers have been sold all over the country, and numerous testimonials from eminent firms of packers bear testimony to their efficiency and reliability. Estimates are promptly furnished by the company, while special machinery of all kinds is designed and constructed at moderate rates. Packers of all kinds of fruit, oysters, etc., will find it greatly to their interest to make a factor of this responsible house.

From the book: 'Half-Century's Progress of the City of Baltimore' The City leading Manufacturers and Merchants by International Publishing Company, 102 Chambers Street, New York, 1887

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### **Willing, Hunt & Company**

Willing, Hunt & Co., Oyster and Fruit Packers, 64 Boston Street. - - - Among the various industries of Baltimore that of oyster and fruit packing take the lead, both in amount of business and importance to the welfare of the community.



Prominent among the large firms engaged in this branch is that of Willing, Hunt & Co., No. 64 Boston Street. The present firm was established in 1881, having succeeded the firm of Hunt, Barnes & Co. which was one of the oldest firms engaged in this business in Baltimore. The members of the firm are Captain John W. Willing, James R. Willing, James R. Hunt and P. F. Schminke. They give special attention to all goods packed. Their name alone is a sufficient guarantee that all goods packed by the said celebrated Seal Brand oysters, also fruits and vegetables, and are now giving their entire attention to the oyster trade; their oysters can be relied upon as represented, large, full weight and fresh. They are now shipping to all points West, Southwest, and South, as also East and to foreign markets. They have a large wharf but have railroad facilities, which enable them to dispatch goods at the shortest notice. Some idea may be formed to this immense business when we state that they employ between two hundred and three hundred hands, and their large establishment which is seventy feet front and running back about five hundred feet to the water front, gives them ample facilities for their immense business. They have advantage over most firms in the trade, from the fact that they have their own extensive oyster beds in the Chesapeake Bay and Nanticoke River thus enabling them to guarantee the quality of their oysters selecting none but the best. In addition to the above they have a large factory on their own farm in Wicomico County, MD., where, during the fruit and vegetable season, they employ several hundred hands packing their own production, the quality of which is the best, freshest and choicest. By the exercise of great commercial ability, combined with a straightforward system of honorable dealing, the firm of Willing, Hunt & Co. have achieved a prominence accorded only to those whose transactions have been based on the strictest principles of mercantile honor.

From the book: "Industries of Maryland - A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore" by Richard Edwards 1881-82, Historical Publishing Company, Publishers, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, 1882. (Page 242)

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1869 map of Baltimore Harbor



*In my research, I found this very interesting article about the Baltimore canning industry at its peak in the 1880's. Hope you enjoy it, as much as I have.*

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*From the Baltimore Sun  
dated 6 September 1873*

By Jane Sears LM 12

# **Fruit, Oyster and Vegetable Packing in Baltimore**

(Reported for the Baltimore Sun.)

Since the close of the war the packing and canning business has increased rapidly in this city and its immediate vicinity, until at the present time there are over one hundred different establishments engaged in the business, employing a capital estimated at \$5,000,000, beside the use of property and machinery valued at between seven and eight million dollars additional. The first packing establishment started in Baltimore was in 1810, when Mr. E. C. Wright started an oyster-canning house on York Street. From this time to the year 1861 the business increased slowly, but gradually, until the commencement of the war, when the great demand for canned fruits, oysters, meats, and vegetables for the use of the army, gave the business a new impetus, causing a large number of new houses to spring up in and around Baltimore.

Since the close of the war, an immense business has developed through the western and southern States, equaling in extent the combined business of other localities. This readily accounted for by the great advantages enjoyed, and the facilities afforded by the proximity of the city to the fruit growing sections of Delaware and of the eastern and western shores of Maryland, and the oyster beds of the Chesapeake Bay. Some definite idea of the extent of the business may be formed from an estimate made some time since by the oyster packing association, which places the amount of business done annually to that special department of the canning business at \$15,000,000. There are about twenty-five of the largest and oldest establishments in the city who employ a cash capital, ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Probably the oldest firm in the city is that of Thomas Kensett & Co., who pack cooked oysters in the winter and fruit during the summer, besides having a large establishment at Nassau, New Providence,

where they pack nothing but pineapples. During the past season, which commenced on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May and ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, one million and ten thousand cans were packed. Of sale, large number of cans of pineapples daily two thirds are brought to this country, whilst the remaining third is packed whole and shipped to England. This is an entirely new enterprise, originated by Messrs. Kensett & Co., in connection with two New York firms, who have obtained a grant from the English colonial government for five years, and have erected extensive buildings there, where the fruit is received fresh from the plantations. The machinery and skilled labor were all sent from this city. Messrs. Kensett & Co. have a large establishment on West Falls avenue, with an abundance of facilities, and they do an immense business each day. This firm uses 5,000 boxes of tin each month in making cans.

Messrs. William Numsen & Sons are largely engaged in packing cooked oysters and all kinds of fruits, vegetables, jellies, pickles, &c., all the year round. This firm have several factories and two large docks, with extensive water privileges. The Messrs. Numsen have been engaged in the business for the past twenty-five years, and have always cooked their oysters before canning them. Within the past two years these gentlemen have erected a large building at Easton, Talbot County, where nothing but peaches are canned, direct from the orchards. During the peach season their business here averages about 20,000 cans a day, requiring between four and five hundred hands. This firm have also a large branch house in Chicago, which supplies a large section of the northwest with meats, jellies, all kinds of fruits, vegetables and soft crabs. In consequence of the shortness of the crop, and the inferior quality of the peaches received this season, the prices have been firm, but it is estimated that the amount of business done during the present season will fully equal that of last year.

The Messrs. Numsen say that fruit can be canned at much less expense in the city than in the country, because the cost of construction is greater, the price of labor higher, and as a general rule the farmers expect and demand higher prices in the country than they are satisfied to receive after bringing their fruit to market. The process of preserving is conducted on the same principle as that adopted by housekeepers, and last year they packed over 6,000 dozen preserves, and 25,000 dozen jellies in glasses, &c. In making cans for packing oysters and fruits last year. Messrs. Numsen used over \$80,000 worth of tin plate, and they expect that their bills this year for this one item alone will

considerably exceed for this one item alone will considerably exceed that amount. The prospect for fruit packers is good, and the orders already being received from the west indicate a larger demand than usual heretofore.

Mr. C. S. Maltby has the largest establishment in the city for packing raw oysters, and during the oyster season he employs between four and five hundred hands regularly, of whom fully two thirds are shuckers, who shuck between thirty five and forty thousand cans a day. The raw oysters are packed in boxes about four inches wide two inches thick and six inches high, for one size, and double that size for the larger or two pound boxes. The cooked oysters are packed in round cans, and the cans are placed in hot water, which come nearly to the top of the cans, and here the process of sealing is completed. In capping the can before it is put into the water a small perforation is left in the center of the top. From this little hole all the water is forced out of the can by the action of the hot water, and the tinker, with his soldering material, soon closes that, and puts an end to the process of hermetically sealing.

The oyster season begins about the middle of October and lasts during the entire winter, when the condition of the harbor will permit the entrance of vessels. The number of tin cans used in the business is estimated at twenty millions per annum. The cans are made at shops where nothing else is done, but many of the largest packers employ can makers, and have their own shops for the accommodation of their own business.

The following statistics are extracted from a table, which was carefully prepared for the use of Mr. C. S. Maltby, and it makes an interesting exhibit, showing the quantity of Oysters used annually, where obtained, and the quantity assigned to Baltimore. The total number of bushels used is estimated at 6,915,000. Of which 4,830,000 bushels are caught in Maryland waters, and 2,065,000 bushels in Virginia waters. The number caught by dredging is estimated at 4,746,334, and with tongs 2,198,666 bushels.

The amount assigned to Baltimore is used as follows:

	Bushels
Est. quantity packed raw	1,875,000
Est. quantity preserved	1,360,000
Est. quantity city & country	
Trade in shell	625,000
Total	3,860,000

There are about one thousand boats, of an average tonnage of fifty tons each, engaged in dredging for oysters for the Baltimore market and supplying vessels for other markets. The average quantity dredge by each one of these boats during



the oyster season is four thousand seven hundred and forty six bushels. There are also fifteen hundred and fifty five canoes engaged in tonging for oysters, and it is estimated that these canoes catch one third as many oysters with tongues as are dredged by the one thousand boats.

Another of the large establishments where all kinds of fruits, vegetables, jellies, and preserves are packed is that of Mr. J. B. Brinkley & Sons, No. 176 South Charles Street. The Messrs. Brinkley pack and pickle their oysters in glass jars. In this establishment where between one million and a million and a half cans are packed annually, each branch of the business has its own separate department entirely distinct from the others. A large quantity of pineapples are also packed whole for the European markets, while those for the domestic markets are cut in slices. During in the busy fruit season this firm employ constantly between three and four hundred hands, whose wages vary from seventy-five cents up to \$1.50. During the past two years, this firm have packed but few oysters, owing to the low prices, which they have been bringing.

Mr. Jasper M. Berry, Nos. 36 and 38 York Street, has been engaged in the packing business for the past ten years. Mr. Berry packs both steamed and raw oysters, in one, two and three pound tin cans, both round and square, and during the oyster season employs about one hundred and fifty hands. During the summer season, he employs about two hundred hands, who are engaged in packing all the different varieties of fruits and vegetables.

Messrs. Oberndorf, Flamm & Co., at the corner of Hughes and William streets, do about the largest business in pickled oysters of any house in the city, paying especial attention to their finer grades, as of which are put up in glass jars. The business in this particular branch is very irregular, depending entirely upon the price and quality of salt water oysters, which are the only one used. Some seasons they pickle from 2,500 to 4,000 cases a day, this year, however, they only put up about one-half that quantity, owing to the indifferent quality of the oysters. The season continues from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. The Messrs. Oberndorf, Flamm & Co., also pack a large quantity of peaches and vegetables and have a large tins shop connected with their establishment where they make their own cans.

Messrs. J. G. Kraft & Co., at the foot of Cross street, do a large business in hermetically sealed oysters and all kinds of fruit and vegetables, employing constantly about three hundred hands. Mr.

Winebrenner, of this firm, is at Seaford, Delaware, where they have started this season a new establishment for the purpose of obtaining fruit direct from the farmers, thereby avoiding the bruising and jarring which it would receive in being brought to market. These gentlemen buy most of their cans, finding it quite as cheap as manufacturing, and thereby saving the annoyance. Their present facilities are capable of running about 25,000 cans. This season they have canned very few cherries, gauges, plums, damsons, or pears, owing to their high price.

Mr. Lewis McMurphy, in addition to his two large establishments which have been in successful operation for some years past, has now nearly completed, at the foot of Cross street, what will be the largest packing house in the city. The entire building is 492 feet long, with a wharf frontage of 268 feet. This will give Mr. McMurray great facility for the packing of oysters, in which he already does an extensive business. He also does a large business in all kinds of canned fruits and vegetables.

Messrs. W. L. Ellis & Co. have a large establishment on Alicanna street, near Boston, but they confine themselves principally to the packing of raw oysters. They do a large business all through the southern and western States.

Jacob Rider, on Sharp Street, packs only fruit and vegetables during the summer months, and does a business of about 75,000 cans a year.

Samuel Ewalt & Co., formerly J. Waltemeyer, employ about seventy-five hands during the summer in canning fruits and vegetables and a small force during the winter in packing oysters. This firm has packed a large quantity of peas, white cherries and corn during the season.

Kines & Brother pack only tomatoes and peaches, and are engaged in packing only about four or five weeks during the year.

Mr. Wm. M. Boyer has a large establishment at No. 25 and 27 Block Street, and pack all the year round. Mr. Boyer makes a specialty of his fine brands of oysters, and does a large western shipping business.

Thomas J. Myer & Co., 90 West Falls avenue, are one of the most extensively engaged firms in the city, having every convenience and facility for rapid packing. This firm have a large amount of capital invested in their buildings and machinery, and have the additional advantage of being so located as to enable them to upload their oysters direct from the vessel into their building, ready for the shuckers. The Messrs. Myers & Co. manufacture their own cans, having an apartment set apart

entirely for that purpose, and a number of can makers employed all the year round. During the oyster season this firm employ about two hundred and fifty hands, and during the busy fruit packing season, as it has been with them for two weeks past, they have between four and five hundred.

Besides the above packinghouses, there are many others whose capital varies from five thousand up to twenty thousand dollars, whilst again there is an almost innumerable number whose capital consists of a few hundred dollars, and whose business lasts only during a few weeks in the summer, when tomatoes and peaches are abundant and cheap.

Prominent among those whose capital varies from five thousand to twenty five or thirty five thousand dollars are Messrs. W. H. Abbott & Co., John W. Anderson & Co., Barnes & Adams, S. S. Boggs & Son, Alexander Boggs & Co., William Bridges, who cans entirely, T. H. Burgess & Co., Evans, Reeves & Co., Jones & Pearson, McAllister, Abbott & Co., John O'Farrell & Co., C. R. Myers & Co. William H. Ramsay & Co., L. C. Spencer & Co., John Staum & Sons, Wightman & Drakeley, Charles Walmsley & Co., T. D. Twaits & Co., Robert J. Hollingsworth, John T. Jordan & Co. and W. H. Wheeler.

So great has the demand for cans become that can manufacturing has become a large and important business, in which there are some twenty-five different firms engaged in make cans exclusively for the domestic demand of the packers of Baltimore.

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**ATLANTIC - SOUTHWESTERN BROOM COMPANY**

BY: W. Wallace Stone R-47

1888- August Rosenberger and his brother in law, Algernon Klein, were partners in a grocery business in Evansville, Indiana. This business later became so large and successful that they owned 12 horses and carriages required to deliver groceries to their customers. One of their customers, a farmer was unable to pay his debt and asked Mr. Rosenberger if he would accept a small shack complete with a broom machine and a sewing machine in payment for his outstanding bill. The deal was consummated.

Being the type of man who couldn't own something that didn't work, he went down to the shack with another worker from the store and the pair of men taught themselves how to make brooms. They then sold the brooms through the grocery store.

March 7, 1907. Rosenberger created the Atlantic Broom Company and purchased the equipment, inventory and contacts of the Calvert Broom and Brush company, operating at that time out of the old Baltimore City Jail.

1910. Construction begins of the Atlantic-Southwestern Broom Company at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Toone Street. At this time the factory was located in Baltimore County.

January 30, 1911; The Atlantic Broom Company and the Southwestern Broom Company merge to become the Atlantic-Southwestern Broom Company.

1922. The new East building is completed adding 35,000 square feet of additional warehouse and assembly space.

1924. The North building is completed adding 22,500 square feet of assembly room.



1932. The company reaches peak production of 3.6 million brooms and is staffed by as many as 300 workers. The company served accounts such as Safeway (at that time known as Sanitary), Giant Foods, The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company and other retailers.

November 1989. After 101 years of operation, the Atlantic-Southwestern Broom Company closed its doors for the last time. The Atlantic-Southwestern sign is still visible on the old factory's western wall, and though it's hard to tell from the outside, the place looks as busy as ever. There is still a Rosenberger in charge. Great grandson, Scott Rosenberger is Manager of the building and landlord of the tenants within. Included are a coffee roasting Company, a Silk Scarf firm, cabinetmaker, a fork lift repair shop, an upholsterer and puppeteers. Quite a group!! The present name of this operation is officially called the Harbor Enterprise Center. Today there is a waiting list for any available office or work room space.



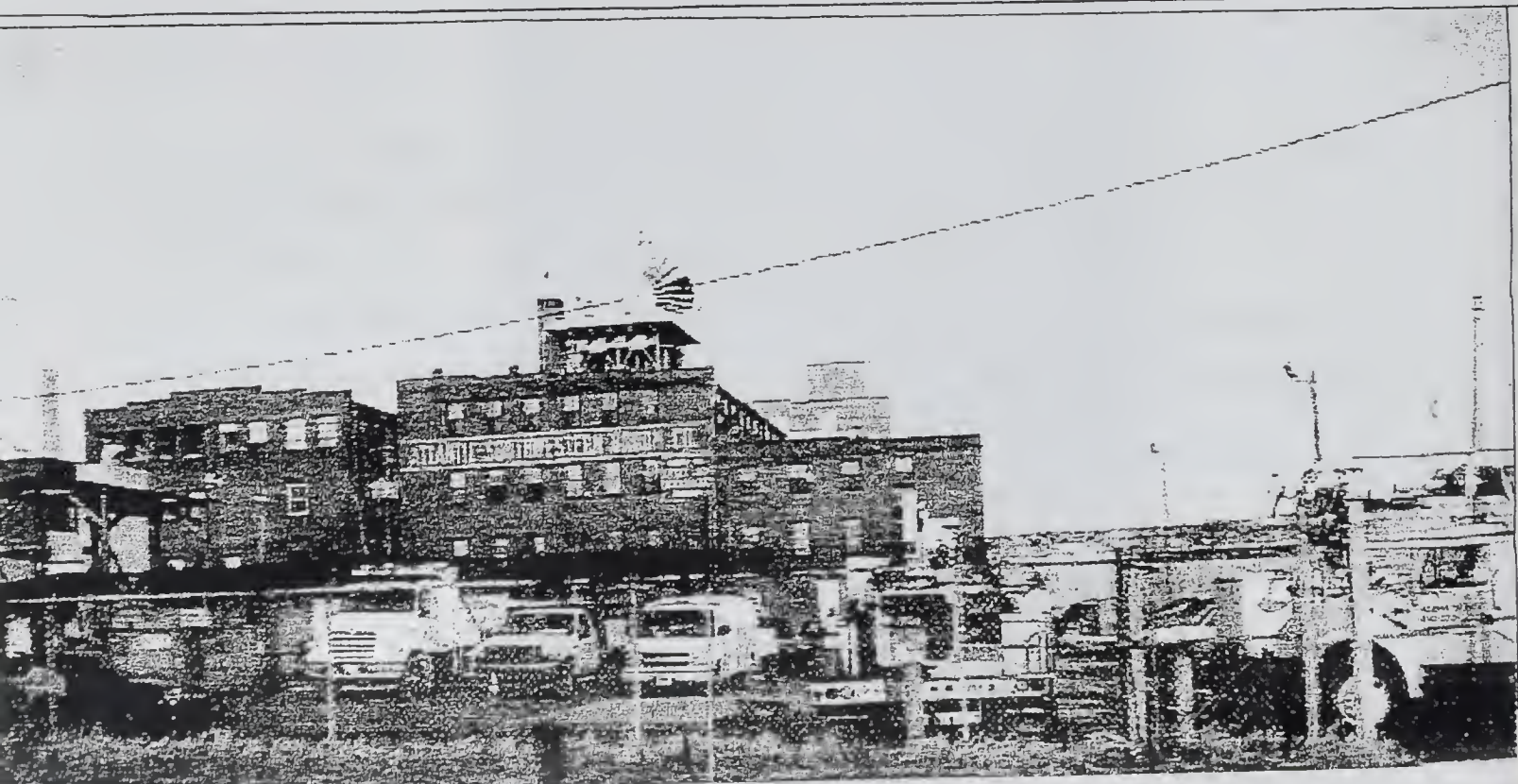
Broom package shipping label

Circa 1930





Historic Photo of the Broom Factory



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